



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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04/21/06

→ *PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND!*

Breakfast with Bruce, & tips for Seniors, in Northville, April 28

Seniors are invited for a complimentary breakfast, with worthwhile information, too! Here's your opportunity to spend a little time with Senator Bruce Patterson, and learn some things you want to know. *RSVPs* are requested.

This free breakfast will be offered on Friday, April 28th, from 9:00am to 10:30am, at Northville's Senior Center, in the Banquet Room. It will have a Springtime theme.



A good crowd turned out in Canton, April 10, to hear Sen. Patterson and Ms. Joan Rich, and Officer LeBlanc, and to enjoy breakfast together.

The Northville Senior Center is located at 303 West Main Street. Please call the Center, (248) 349-4140, to reserve your spot.

One Guest Speaker will be Joan Rich, from the Traffic Improvement Association (a non-profit group). She will talk on useful tips for senior drivers. She will address a few issues related to mobility and compensation skills. This will include facts and myths about senior drivers, and engineering changes to aid mature drivers.

An officer of the Northville Police Department will speak about specific safety and driving issues in Northville.

Senator Patterson will also speak on issues of interest to seniors.

Call Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, at (734) 783-1642 with any questions.

Senior Volunteers' Luncheon, Sumpter Twp Community Center

On Friday, April 28, at 1 pm, Sen. Patterson will join in honoring the many Senior Volunteers who give their time to help at the Center. Ms. Brenda Jameyfield praised those who serve in such a variety of ways. They make possible many of the programs the Center holds.

Somebody robbing your Pharmacy blind?

Patterson introduces bill to target drug embezzlement

Could somebody, working at your local pharmacy, take prescription medications out of inventory to resell on the black market? Brownstown Detective Sgt. Thomas Dayfield confronted exactly such a scene not long ago. He said, "The law was not on my side. Under current law, this crime was only a misdemeanor." Despite its serious nature, conviction does not carry stiff penalties. In federal law, "prescription medication" is not a "controlled substance." Detective Dayfield brought the matter to Sen. Patterson's attention for a remedy.

Sen. Patterson acted promptly to submit Senate Bills 1212-1213. They will outlaw such theft and make it a felony. The bills were assigned at once to the Judiciary Committee for hearings. Patterson is a member of that committee.

"These bills address a gap in the law. They will have a deterrent effect, and, if necessary, punish employees who steal and sell prescription drugs. Simple theft penalties are not sufficient to address this problem," said Dave Gorceyca, Oakland County Prosecutor, speaking on behalf of the Michigan Prosecutors' Association. "Sen. Patterson is making a much-needed clarification."

"Consumers are hurt by these thefts. Black market transactions undermine public health, and they raise costs to legitimate prescription holders. This hurts real people, everyday citizens, like you and me," said Patterson.

Congratulations to Poster Contest winners!

"Two from the same school! We've never had that happen before!" exclaimed DEQ staff on April 20, when awards were given to Kindergartner Libby Frucci and First Grader Chloe Hutchison, of Park Lane Elementary School, Grosse Ile. They were among 1600 entrants in the 'Earth Day' poster contest. Both took First Place honors. Their art work was on display in Constitution Hall, in Lansing, where over 1,000 gathered to celebrate. The Department of Environmental Quality sponsors the statewide contest.

Some Trickster wants your call?

Has some caller ever left you a phony message on your answering machine, asking you to call back "about your account"? Did it worry you, in these days of identity theft? *What account?!* Did puzzlement lead you to call back? Did that hook work? Maddening!

The Senate Technology and Energy Committee, chaired by Sen. Bruce Patterson, took testimony on Wednesday, April 19, on House Bill 4423. The Committee promptly recommended the bill to the full Senate.

“This is clearly beyond the limits. It is a lie. Telemarketers must not use a loophole in the law to lure people into calling them back. It is unethical,” said Patterson. “I am proud to be part of the effort to close this loophole.”

The bill was authored by Rep. Lisa Wojno (Democrat –Warren, 28th District). At present, you can be on a “Do Not Call” list; then only firms “with whom you have business” can legally call you. That’s the loophole the tricksters try to use.

DID YOU KNOW ?

You can register online for the “Do Not Call” list, at WWW.DONOTCALL.GOV or call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.

You can help!



One in ten people in Michigan will need help feeding their families this year.

Here's how you can help: **Remember to put non-perishable food items at your mailbox on Saturday, May 13th for the National Letter Carriers' Food Drive.**

Last year Michigan Food Banks and emergency food providers received over 2 million pounds of food for people in their local communities.

Every can and box helps!

Better Health Care for Less – A Starting Point

With health insurance costs out of sight, Sen. Patterson is introducing a bill to require that HSAs be offered as an insurance option to state employees. “This is a starting point. The state can set a good example, and private industry can see the result, and follow suit. My bill won’t mandate *use* of HSAs; it will simply ensure state workers can *choose* one if

they feel it's the best option for them," said Patterson. "It will be a chance to catch the wave of the future in health care now. It will demonstrate that these work."

"HSAs put Consumers in the driver's seat, not a bureaucracy. This can drive down costs for medical care for others as well as those with an HSA," according to Dr. David Janda, a surgeon and world-renowned pioneer in preventive medicine, resident of Plymouth. He has advocated use of HSAs as a way to use market forces to reverse price trends.

SB 1205, and is gaining wide support. George Mans, a prominent Downriver figure, now Flat Rock's Economic Development Director, pointed to bi-partisan interest in this bill. "We definitely need a new direction in Health Care; I want to support Sen. Patterson in putting his proposal forward. With HSAs, families are reining in costs, yet not losing excellence of care. HSAs offer 'the best of both worlds.' Ohio is moving in the same direction. It's good policy to get thorough discussion of HSAs; I support the concept."

Federal law allows HSAs to grow tax-free. The account can also be inherited. A high-deductible catastrophic insurance coverage is part of the HSA, to guard against calamity.

Office Hours schedule for late April & May, 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

April 24th -- Plymouth District Library, at 223 South Main Street, Plymouth

May 1st -- Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville,
especially for all in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships

May 8th -- Gibraltar City Hall

May 15th -- Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill (just W. of Canton Center Rd), Canton

May 22nd -- Mochavation Café, 8537 Macomb Street, Grosse Ile

Upcoming event: Breakfast with Bruce

Trenton, Westfield Center - May 19th

Details to follow.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!